

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6659

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 649

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING: MIDDLE EAST

1. IN BRIEFING APRIL 10, NOEL DORR, IRISH POLITICAL DIRECTOR, REVIEWED FOR US DISCUSSIONS ON MIDDLE EAST BY EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS OVER PREVIOUS TWO DAYS (OTHER TOPICS SEPTELS). PARTICIPANTS HAD DISCUSSED TWO MIDDLE EAST TOPICS: THE EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE AND MOVES TOWARD PEACE SETTLEMENT.

2. EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE: POLITICAL DIRECTORS DID NOT SPEND MUCH TIME ON THIS SUBJECT: AS THE EC HAS NOT YET RECEIVED AN ARAB RESPONSE TO THE EC "DENATIONALIZED EXPERTS FORMULA" FOR GETTING THE TALKS STARTED. NO ONE HAD ANY NEW IDEAS AS TO WHICH WAY THE ARABS ARE LEANING. THE BEST GUESS IS THAT SOME RESPONSE MAY COME AFTER THE NEXT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING ON APRIL 24. EC MEMBERS FELT NO GREAT SENSE OF URGENCY AND SAW NO NEED TO SIT AROUND AND WORRY ABOUT THE PROBLEM.

3. STILL ON THE EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE, ONE NEW QUESTION AROSE: SOME PARTICIPANTS SUGGESTED THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, IF IT IS RESUMED, MIGHT CHANGE THE PLO SITUATION AND RAISE A NEED FOR REVISING THE DENATIONALIZED EXPERTS FORMULA. PARTICIPANTS SEEMED TO FEEL THAT IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE EXTENDED SOME SORT OF RECOGNITION TO THE PLO, THEN THE EC COUNTRIES WOULD NO LONGER NEED TO BE AS CAUTIOUS AS THEY ARE TRYING TO BE AT PRESENT. ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT NO CHANGE IS IN ORDER AT THE MOMENT.

4. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS ALSO CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EC ROLE IN ANY NEW ATTEMPTS THAT ARE MADE TO ARRIVE AT A PEACE SETTLEMENT. A WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS WILL LOOK INTO THIS QUESTION AND WILL, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF GUARANTEES. THE EC ROLE MAY BE CHANGING FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, EGYPT HAS INDICATED INTEREST IN HAVING FRANCE AND THE UK AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. THIS REQUIRES DISCUSSIONS BY THE EC AS A WHOLE. SECOND, THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS ARE NOT SURE WHETHER THE STEP-BY-STEP AMERICAN APPROACH HAS NOW ENDED OR WHETHER IT MAY STILL BE TRIED. AMERICAN STATEMENTS ABOUT REASSESSING MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY HAVE GIVEN SOME POLITICAL DIRECTORS THE IMPRESSION
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THAT THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IS NO LONGER ON. OTHERS THINK THAT THE "APPARENT CHECK" TO THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH MAY NOT BE PERMANENT. THE IRISH EC PRESIDENCY HAS BEEN ASKED TO SOUND OUT THE US ON THIS SUBJECT. THE EUROPEANS WISH TO BE HELPFUL IN THE NEW SITUATION, AND THEY ARE OPEN TO AMERICAN OPINIONS AS TO HOW THEY MIGHT GO ABOUT IT.

5. COMMENT: DORR OBVIOUSLY EXPECTS A US RESPONSE.
MOORE

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